

# Taking the Lead

Children's Participation for Better Governance



***Community Health Cell*****Library and Information Centre**

367, " Srinivasa Nilaya "

Jakkasandra 1st Main,

1st Block, Koramangala,

BANGALORE - 560 034.

Phone : 5531518 / 5525372

e-mail:sochara@vsnl.com

# Taking the Lead

Children's Participation For Better Cities



## **ÓYouth For Unity and Voluntary Action, July 2002**

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author and publisher.

Suggested Contribution : Rs. 50/-

Compiled & Edited : YUVA

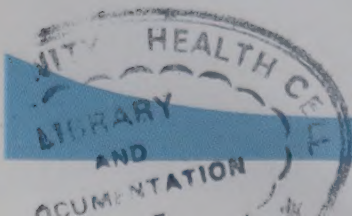
Cover Picture by : Parsha Yallapa Dasare (13 yrs.), Mumbai

Published by Youth For Unity and Voluntary Action, 53/2, Nare Park Municipal School, Opp Nare Park Ground, Parel, Mumbai - 400 012. (INDIA)

Telephones : (91- 22) 414 3498 / 415 5250 / 411 6393-94

E-mail : [yuva.books@yuvaindia.org](mailto:yuva.books@yuvaindia.org)

Printed by : Uday Print Arts, 212, Milan Ind. Eastate, Kalachowki, Mumbai - 33.



COMH 302  
07315  
002

# Taking the Lead

Children's Participation For Better Cities



**YUVA BOOKS**

Mumbai





## ***Preface***

*“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”*

### **-Mahatma Gandhi**

Children’s participation aims at harnessing a child’s enthusiasm, engaging their imagination, and giving them the tools to accept some of the responsibility for changing the environment in which they live. Through our experience in communities where we have established institutions for long-term intervention, we have seen how children have the ability not only to affect their own development, but also make a profound impact on their families and surroundings.

Children rarely receive the opportunity to be heard concerning the decisions that have a significant effect on their lives. We have a tendency to underestimate their ability to articulate and express their views – views that can be both thoughtful and insightful.

This is unfortunate, as they have a talent for observing small and important details that adults often overlook, little things which can prove key to creating more effective solutions. For example, children know how difficult it is for their mother’s to fetch water from facilities far from their homes; therefore, water taps become an element of Housing Rights.

By engaging children and especially underprivileged children who face such daunting circumstances, we can foster their growth into responsible citizens who can take a proactive approach towards solving problems. This means not only gaining an understanding of their human rights, but learning how to work within a system of governance to solve inequities that exist.

As part of this effort, we felt it necessary to provide a forum for children



to both learn and speak about their rights, and so the stage was set for the creation of the *Bal Adhikar Mela*, or Celebration of Child Rights. The Mela's ideological origins can be found in the Right to Participation, as stated in the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child. Strategically, it has been a link in the series of initiatives taken by YUVA and other organizations, city level processes by NGOs in the Co-ordinated Committee for Vulnerable Children (CCVC) network, and an effort by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to make Mumbai a "child friendly city".

The booklet details everything that went into the **Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002**, and contains the entire text of the **Children's Charter of Demands** that was an outcome of the process. The Charter voices the opinions and demands of children concerning the Right to Education, Housing, Health and Basic Services, as well thoughts on their idea of a "Child Friendly City". Finally, the book discusses the creation of the **Bal Adhikar Manch** (Child Rights Forum), a network of children's organizations to address and follow up on issues from the Mela.

Working with children to organize the Bal Adhikar Mela 2002 has been a wonderful experience, and one that was full of lessons for our team. The whole process has reconfirmed our conviction that if the proper platform is provided, children's participation can be used as a powerful tool with an ever-widening scope of applicability. The goal is for children to work with the government, create partnerships and open lines of communication, and remain proactive in the effort to bring about lasting social change.

Archana Shrivastava  
Program Co-ordinator  
Child Rights Unit,  
YUVA, Mumbai





## *The seed is sown...*

The seed of thought for the ***Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002*** (Celebration of Child Rights)—a half-day interactive workshop of Mumbai's disadvantaged children with local government officials, media, and leading social workers in the field of Child Rights—was sown almost a decade ago with India's ratification in 1992 of the **United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**. This convention adheres to the principle of a "first call for children", and is the first to recognize certain unalienable human rights of children throughout the world. These are broadly classified as the right to survival, protection, development, and participation.

Though all categories are equally important, it was the right to participation that made the Convention's directive truly unique. It was a new and compelling idea, to view children as potential contributors, involving them in the procurement and establishment of their own rights. It also recognizes that in working to guarantee stated rights, the input of children is key to obtaining an accurate understanding of the problems they face, and to create surroundings from which they can derive the most benefit. In addition, greater overall awareness can create pressure and a heightened sense of urgency for social change. Simply stated, the creation and implementation of policy, taking into account children's input, will be more effective.

From that seed sprouted the idea for the *Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002*, an endeavor to promote children's participation. It came to fruition as an opportunity for children to interact with key adult figures in the field of Child Rights; to learn about their rights, discuss their experience, and have their opinions heard by people and policy makers with the power to affect their lives.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is to serve as a powerful beacon in guiding all future planning, policy implementation, and resource allocation toward the creation of a global environment in which all children are provided the opportunity to succeed. Somewhere, implicitly stated, is that if the mandate is to be achieved, it must be a wholly cooperative process. It is our belief that in this spirit, the *Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002* was a step forward in the right direction.

### *The idea takes shape...*

Since its inception, YUVA (Youth for Unity & Voluntary Action) has been addressing human rights issues, and has worked for more than a decade on operationalising the rights of children.

In 1999, **UNICEF and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** initiated a *Child Friendly City* as a consultative process with several NGO's in the city of Mumbai (earlier known as Bombay)

In the spring of 1999, YUVA organized the first *Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela*.

The event allowed children an opportunity to learn about their basic rights as mandated by the Convention on Rights of Children (CRC). It



provided a medium, through artful expression: drawing, painting, clay modeling, for children from the slums and streets of Mumbai to share their own thoughts and feelings regarding difficulties they encounter every day. The purpose was to educate, get children involved, and gain feedback as to what they felt were important considerations in their lives. It was also their first opportunity to represent, both creatively and through discussion, their idea of what constitutes a “*Child Friendly Mumbai*”.



*'Let's talk about a Child Rights'*

As the first Mela met with great success, “Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002” was conceived with the explicit goal of creating a



more prominent role for children in the organization of the event. Consequently, childrens organizations from various communities played a crucial role in its planning and execution. The Child Rights team of YUVA played the role of facilitator in guiding the process, a process that would become as integral to achieving the goal of participation as the Mela itself.

Under banner of the Co-ordinated Committee for Vulnerable Children (CCVC) a year long process was under taken towards understanding and actualising children's right to participation. A series of workshops was conducted with directors, co-ordinators of NGOs, grass-root functionaries and, most importantly, children from a variety of circumstance and backgrounds. Lessons from these workshops played an important role in shaping the event.

Child participants in this year's mela included 650 children from the slums, pavement and streets of Mumbai. Special efforts were also made to invite children with disabilities. In addition to participation, the workshop aimed at promoting greater visibility of children's organization and exposure to local government (representatives of the Municipal corporation), media, and prominent social workers of the child rights network in Mumbai.

Once again, through creative medium, children were provided an opportunity to express everyday experience, desires, and visions for the future. Furthermore, to give a more thorough perspective, issues of gender were stressed in all discussions.

## *Making preparations...*

A total of forty children, ten representatives from each of the following four community level children's organizations: 1. Parivartan Bal Manch (Durga Mata Gyan Mandir, Jogeswari) 2. Pragat Bal Mandal (Bhabharekar Nagar, Malad) 3. Mantri Mandal (Ghar Ho To Aisa, Dadar) 4. Ekta Mitra Mandal (Mahim) came forward to form a core team. The core team was responsible for conceptualization, planning, and division of tasks. It also assured proper handling of its member's roles and effective execution of plans on the day of the Mela.



*What exactly does the Right to Housing mean to me?*

Two special one-day workshops were held with the group. The first workshop was primarily for clarification of the concept, to brainstorm activities for the day of the Mela, and to create a detailed schedule for the event. The group also created a rough outline for a document stating

their position, to be presented as the focal point of the Mela. The second workshop focussed on the division of responsibility and working towards formation of draft Charter of demand for a Child Friendly City

### ***Formation of the Charter...***

The rough outline eventually took the form of a **Children's Charter of Demands**. It served as an expression of their wishes within the context of their rights. The Charter was split into four parts, with each group focusing on one of the following rights:

- Housing
- Education
- Health and basic services
- Child Friendly City (environment)

To develop a document truly indicative of the children's vision, core team members conducted a series of meetings with their respective children's organizations to discuss the Charter. The second workshop began with each group presenting their section of the Charter, and was followed by a discussion of its demands. When a consensus was reached, a draft was formalized and prepared.

### ***Dividing responsibilities...***

The entire group was then divided into two, and responsibilities were designated. One group agreed to present the Charter, facilitate conversations with Municipal officials, document all feedback, and generally control the flow of the day. The second group took charge of



all logistics, food arrangement, and registration of all the child participants. Together, they made sure that all matters were thoroughly addressed, that the Mela ran as smoothly as possible.

### ***Broadening the base ...***

As a final note, at the end of the second workshop, the core group decided they should make an effort to broaden the reach of the Charter, by speaking to other children and communities that would be unable to attend the Mela. They explained exactly what they were attempting to do, shared the Children's Charter of Demands, and collected signature endorsements in support of their cause. It was an important lesson in making an effort to mobilize support, and also gave the children a great



*Vishwajeet and Tai hold the attention of the enthusiastic crowd*

deal of confidence in doing work at the grass-roots . This process started before the actual Mela, and continued after it with more than 400 signatures collected to date. The Charters were also displayed in some schools.

### *Mela day...*

Six hundred and fifty wide-eyed children, spread into groups, listening and asking questions to representatives from the city Municipal corporation ..... was one of the visions at the *Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002*. In a playful and festive environment, with children dressed to match the mood, there were discussions concerning children's rights to basic amenities and services (health, education, etc.), current deficiencies, and steps being taken to ameliorate the problems. What we did not, and could not have anticipated, is the candid manner in which the children shared their everyday struggles, and the almost palpable energy with which they filled the air. On a bright and sunny afternoon, on the grounds of a park in the city of Mumbai, we watched as the children gave lofty expression to what would otherwise be a vague and lifeless mandate: the **Right to Participation**.

Amidst a day filled with meaningful dialogue, cultural performances, singing, and dancing, the children learned something very important: that there is someone listening, that there is hope, and that we are slowly but surely moving forward towards providing an environment in which each one has the opportunity to succeed. We, in turn, learned that Children are eager to share their thoughts and experience; and not just through conversation, but through creative presentation, making clay figures to answer probing questions, conducting entertaining plays to



illustrate problems they face on a daily basis, drawings to depict their ideal homes and surroundings, and songs on what a *Child Freindly City* should be. When asked to give interpretations of their creations, the answers were honest, simple, and reflected a keen awareness of their present social circumstance.

Symbolically speaking, the Children's Charter of Demands is a key outcome of the *Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002*. Its importance is captured as much in its content as in the endeavor undertaken to produce it. Its underlying message is that each child has a voice, that this voice can be used collectively to bring about social change, and that we are responsible to provide a forum in which to do so. This lesson was not predetermined, but a fresh and welcome discovery from actually going through the whole process.

### ***Not everything was perfect...***

Despite all the planning that went into the Mela, we inevitably ran into several problems that will serve as important learning for the future. For instance, we underestimated the heat and difficulty for the children to remain outside throughout the day. There was no serious incidence, but many children became tired, and an indoor area for a short break would have been a good idea.

We were expecting five hundred children, and six hundred and fifty actually came. This caused a shortage of food and snacks for which we had to make last minute adjustments. Many of these extra participants were younger siblings—some as young as five years old, and although they were able to participate through the various creative exercises,



keeping them involved was quite a task.

The problems we experienced were not just with the children. Although all adults involved played a tremendous role, it took a bit of time for the interaction to flow naturally. We learned the importance of communicating information in a language that children can understand easily and clearly. It illustrated that we need to be more thorough in assessing the ability of an official or facilitator to make new ideas simple and conveyable to young participants.



*Little planners excited with their vision of a child friendly Mumbai*

### ***Closing time...***

Towards the end of the day, traditional Maharashtrian music and dancing, coupled with Bollywood hits the children knew word to word, took over to create an atmosphere of fun and frolic as children and adults became one in mass of whirling frenzy. As the sun set on our celebration, our spirits rose with a sense of confidence and hope for the future.

## ***Together, we move forward: the Bal Adhikar Manch ...***

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002, shortly after the *Bal Adhikar Mela*, we facilitated a follow-up meeting of the core group of children who had been fundamental to the organisation of the event. They voiced their desire to form a group of “*children for child rights*”. After some deliberation, it was unanimously decided that their new organization would be called the ***Bal Adhikar Manch*** (Child Rights Forum). The group, with would take initiatives to create greater awareness of pertinent issues in their communities, and further their interaction with local government. In a continuing endeavor to be proactive and to promote participation, the forum laid out the following plan of action for the next three months:

1. The Charter will be published in form of a booklet and will contain, along with the stated demands, paintings made by children during the Mela. Ideas from the Charter of Demands will also be translated into a visual medium in the form of posters to be displayed in schools and other public places.
2. Children will meet various officials of local government (municipal corporation) and influential members of the city to present them with the Charter, discuss the situation in their communities, and speak about how they can work together to bring meaningful change. In the process, they will gain some understanding of what demands can be implemented in the short term, and those that will be long term, requiring a drastic shift from the present situation.
3. Representatives of the forum will initiate at least one activity with children's organizations in their own communities, contributing to



fulfillment of their demands in the Charter. Each project will involve working with the Municipal Corporation, beginning the process of creating partnerships and opening lines of communication. For example, children from New Bhabrekar nagar have devised a plan of collection and better management of the garbage that has accumulated in front of their community. With a little assistance, child representatives from that community have had preliminary meetings with the concerned authorities, and after hearing the children's plan, the Municipal Corporation has promised to assist in every possible way. This includes provision of equipment for the children to conduct an initial cleaning, bins for both wet and dry trash, and a scheduled pick-up for regular trash collection.

4. The Children's Forum has continued their signature campaign in order to spread word of their activity, and gain support of as many people as possible. They are enthusiastically inviting other children's groups, institutions, and organizations to join for the purpose of coordinating, thereby building overall impact, and helping these organizations to act as agents of change and development within their own communities.

One of the goals of the Right to Participation is an increase in public awareness of the plight of disadvantaged children, leading to favorable changes in public policy. Another is to provide an opportunity for children to gain a working understanding of local government, how it functions, and how they can work within the system to effect change. If these goals are accomplished, the result will be a society in which children have both the opportunities, and the tools, to succeed. As this is a developing concept, there is no set path, and all conscious and committed efforts will be a step in the right direction.



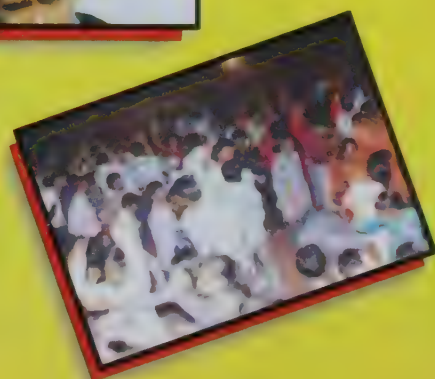


CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE  
HUMAN RIGHTS

CHILDREN NEED EDUCATION,  
NOT EMPLOYMENT.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE IN THE  
PLAYGROUND, NOT IN A FACTORY.

CHILDREN'S CAPACITIES SHOULD  
BE DEVELOPED, NOT CRUSHED.



Glimpses of Bal Adhikar Mela 2002



## Children's Charter of Demands

**Prepared and Declared on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002, at  
"Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002", Nare Park  
Ground, Parel, Mumbai.**

*It is a common misconception that children do not know what is good or bad for them. On this day, we want to tell everybody that we can also think just as elders do. We are equally aware of the situation existing around us. Through **Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002**, we want to assert our rights as accorded to us by both **India's Constitution** and the **United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child**. It is within this framework of rights that we have drafted our Charter of Demands.*

*In the previous Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela organized by YUVA in December 1999, we children had expressed our views and wishes through various mediums. Today, we have organized this **Bal Adhikar Mela 2002** as a step forward in the process of asserting our rights. In this Mela, we have drafted our demands into a Charter, and request the concerned authorities and adult civil society to consider this Charter with all seriousness. Our demands are classified into four areas: Education, Housing, Basic Services and a Child Friendly City. We children feel that these issues are extremely important and relevant to us.*

\* Translation from Hindi



## *Our Right to Education*



Education is one of the most important aspects of any society. If every child in each household is educated, we will be able to say,

“Padathe, Likhate, Haste Bacche, Har Rasthra ki Shaan hai!

Baccho ko Mazadoor Banana, Dono ka Apanman Hai!!”

(A literate child is every country's pride, Child labour is an insult to both.)

We are very saddened by the current situation in which many of our friends do not have opportunity to attend school, and those who go,

do not get proper education. To assert our Right to Education, we, the children living on the roads, pavements and slums of Mumbai, wish to present the following demands:

***Schools are extremely important in imparting education. We demand that :***

- Every child should be admitted to school and schools should be located near our communities
- The school building should be in good condition and should have provision for drinking water and clean toilets.
- Our classrooms should have good seating arrangements, and the doors and windows should be in proper condition.
- Our school should not have any dirt and should always be kept clean.
- Garbage dumps should not be anywhere in the vicinity of the school.
- Every school must have a playground for children.
- Every school must have provision for first aid facility.
- Every standard (grade/level) must have a classroom of its own.

***Our 'teachers' are as important as our schools, since they are the ones who educate us. We demand that :***

- Every class (in each school) must have it's own teacher.
- Our teachers should help us learn properly, should not beat us, and should explain things properly. They should not give very strict punishments.



- Teachers should not eat tobacco, 'Paan' (Betel leaves) 'Gutkha' etc. in school and must definitely not ask the students to fetch these things for them.
- Teachers should explain the lessons in simple language in order to help us understand.
- Teachers should hand over any scholarships and other prizes that we receive and should not keep them.
- Our teachers should treat us with respect and be nice to us.

***Along with our school and our teachers, other things related to education are also extremely important. We demand that :***

- Schools should not charge us any fees. Uniforms, books and other items useful for school must be provided to us free of charge.
- Every locality must have a play-school and a nursery, and must admit children above the age of three. These facilities should also be available to children from the pavements and streets.
- Education up to the 10<sup>th</sup> standard must be free of charge. The 93<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment has accorded free education to children between 6 and 14 years of age. Unfortunately, most of the children amongst us do not reach the 10<sup>th</sup> standard before the age of 14.
- Proper meals should be provided at the schools.
- Medical checks should be conducted for every child irrespective of whether he/she studies in a government school or a private school.

***The main aim of education is to make good human beings and not just to help in securing good jobs. We demand that —***

- Our mother tongue should be the medium of our education.
- We should be educated about things that will be relevant to us in the future.
- Along with education some vocational training should also be given to us, so that after completing our school we are capable of earning our livelihood
- Our school should teach us good values along with book study to help us become good human beings.
- We should be taught using different mediums of instructions and should also be taken out on field visits, etc., so we can get a better understanding of the subject.
- Girls, street children, handicapped children, and children with special needs should be provided with special facilities.



## *Our Right to Housing*



Every living being needs shelter for protection. We children are dependent on our families and society for our safety and security. Home is a place wherein our needs of food, education, health, love, etc., are fulfilled.

However, today, thousands of us are living on the streets and pavements, on station platforms, under bridges, in slums, in garbage dumps or dark alleys.

***We demand homes for all these children because these places do not provide any safety. We present our demands regarding housing :***

- Every child must have rightful access to housing, from where s/he will not have to fear being evicted, irrespective of where s/he lives: on the streets, pavements, or the slums.
- Our home should have enough space for all family members to sit and sleep comfortably.
- Our home must have provision for toilets, water supply, and a place to cook food.
- There should not be any dirt or garbage in the vicinity of our houses. There should be proper drainage facility and good roads, and all the houses should be constructed with proper planning.
- There should be some space around our houses where we can plant trees, go for walks and play.
- The Government should provide us, street children with group homes and employment so that we are self-sufficient. The Government should also provide small children with shelters that will take care of all our needs.
- Our houses should not be demolished. If for some reason our houses have to be relocated, prior and proper notice should be given. Also, there should be a concrete rehabilitation plan.



***The environment in our families is as important as the house itself.  
For that we demand :***

- The atmosphere in the house should be one of love and understanding, and there should be no fights.
- Our father should not drink or gamble.
- Our parents should try to understand our feelings.
- We girls should be treated at par with boys, and no restrictions should be imposed on us.
- We must get a homely atmosphere in the street shelters.

***The conditions prevailing in the areas surrounding our house should be as good as the atmosphere inside our house. We demand that :***

- The environment around our house should be good. There should be no arguments or fights related to caste, creed, race or religion.
- Our parents should get proper employment so that they can provide us with all our necessities.
- Everybody should have the same kind of houses.
- There should be adequate facilities near the houses.
- Shelters for street children should be situated in peaceful surroundings.

- Our locality should be built with proper planning. Adequate care and thought should be put into planning of playgrounds, trees and shrubs, sewage and drainage facilities, and areas between the houses.

## *Our Right to Health and Basic Amenities*



To live a proper life, every individual needs to have access to basic amenities like water, electricity, health care, and sanitation.

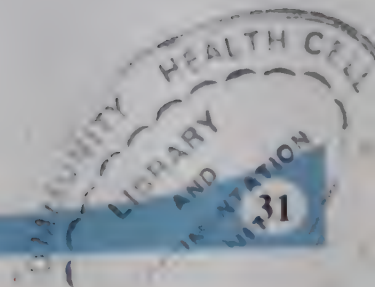


*All these services have a direct impact on our health; however most of us are deprived of these services. Therefore, we demand that :*

- Every community should have water facilities, taps should be closer to our homes, and water should be available for 24 hours.
- Every community should have a proper drainage system, drains must be closed, and they must be regularly cleaned and maintained.
- Every community should have an adequate and sufficient number of toilets, there should be water in the toilets, and they should be kept clean.
- Our community should have 'pukka' roads and they need to be maintained regularly.
- Hospitals should be closer to our homes.
- Municipal hospitals and primary health centers should not impose a cover charge of Rs. 10/-, and all types of medicines should be available in the hospital. The amount charged for the other services is very high. Operations should be done free for people who can't afford them.
- The doctors must treat us properly and with dignity.
- We children living on the streets and pavements should be treated with kindness. There should be a 24-hour 'Help Centre' in each hospital where we can go and get our problems solved.
- Private doctors who charge very high fees must be banned.

- The costs of medicines should be brought down.
- Every child must be given immunizations against diseases.
- Modes of transport like trains, buses, etc., should be available in adequate numbers.
- We the children staying on the pavements and the streets should have good provision for bathing, toilet facilities, and place to store our belongings
- Our houses should have electricity.
- Privatization of basic services should not take place as poor families like ours will be left out of such facilities.
- Dustbins must be kept at various places, and the garbage should be collected regularly.

07615





## *Child Friendly City*



Keeping in mind the importance of children in a country's development, the Mumbai Municipal Corporation had taken initiative towards a Child Friendly City.

*We children also feel that the city we live in should be a Child Friendly City, and this should mean the following:*

- All systems like Transport, Police, Education, Health etc., must be developed keeping children's needs in mind.
- All places such as railway stations, police stations, hospitals, and markets must have a 'Help Centre' for children, where 'child friendly' adults can help needy children.

- Various addictive substances like 'gutkha', cigarettes and alcohol must be banned in the city.
- There should be areas like gardens and playgrounds at different places for children and not only for rich people.
- Handicapped children and children with special needs who require help such as mentally retarded children, cancer affected children, etc., should be able to easily receive assistance.
- Our parents should have jobs and proper wages, so that they can look after us and we children do not have to work.
- No child in our city should have to sleep on the streets and there should be no child labour.
- The Government, before formulating their policies, should take into consideration the effects of policy on children. If slums are to be demolished, the adverse effects on children should also be taken into account.
- Our parents should not be deprived of their occupation, whether they are hawkers, construction workers, or small businesspersons. Instead of treating them badly, they should be provided with adequate support.
- The police, shopkeepers, and the general public should treat street children with courtesy and kindness.
- Children's needs should be taken into account while planning the city, and facilities like hospitals, grounds, schools, police stations, bus stops, etc., must be in adequate numbers.



- There should be a special TV channel for children.
- Our city should be free of pollution.
- Pregnant women and future mothers should have better facilities made available to them so that the children born after us have a better start.
- Children should be allowed to participate in every decision-making process.

## ***Participating orgnizations ...***

The following children's groups and organizations working with children participated in preparing the Children's Charter of Demands for the Rang-Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002.

- **Agni**  
Breach Candy
- **Asara**  
Thane
- **B. H. S.**  
Mumbai
- **Bal Jeevan**  
Mumbai
- **Bal Prufulla Organization**  
Andheri
- **Bamboo Kamgar Sangatana (B. K.S.)**  
Parel/Bhoiwada
- **Bandra East Community Centre (B.E.C.C)**  
Bandra
- **Bharati Mitra Mandal**  
Wadala
- **CCDT**  
Bandra
- **CCT**  
Mumbai
- **Co-ordination Committee for Vulnerable Children (CCVC)**  
Bandra
- **Door Step School**  
Nana Chowk
- **Ekta Mitra Mandal**  
Bhim Nagar, Mahim,
- **Hamar Club**  
Mumbai Central
- **Kamal Mitra Mandal**  
Prakash Nagar, Mahim
- **Mantri Mandal , Ghar Ho To Aisa**  
Yuva shelter, Below Flyover, Dadar
- **Mobile Creche**  
Mumbai
- **Naya Ghar**  
Mumbai
- **Parivartian Bal Manch**  
Jogeshwari
- **Prabhadevi Slum Community Children's Group**  
Dadar
- **Pragati Bal Mandal**  
New Bhabrekar Nagar, Malvani, Malad (West)
- **Ranibaug Pavement Community Children's Group**  
Byculla
- **Sangarsh Vasahat Mitra Mandal**  
Sewri
- **Sathi**  
Agripada
- **Saat Rasta Pavement Community Children's Group**  
Mahalaxmi
- **Shiddhi Viyanak Pavement Community Children's Group**  
Dadar
- **Shivneri Pavement community Children's Group**  
Worli
- **Siddi Vinayak Mitra Mandal**  
Baradevi, Sewri
- **Smile**  
Mumbai
- **Sneha**  
Dharavi
- **Surya Kiran Mitra Mandal**  
Matunga Station
- **Task Foundation**  
Mumbai
- **Vimla Vikas Kendra**  
Mumbai







**650** wide-eyed children spread into groups, listening and asking questions to representatives from the city municipal corporation, was one of the visions in creating the Rang Tarang Bal Adhikar Mela 2002. What we did not, and could not have anticipated, was the candid manner in which the children shared their everyday struggles, and the almost palpable energy with which they would fill the air. On a bright and sunny afternoon, on the grounds of a park in the city of Mumbai, we watched as the children gave lofty expression to what would otherwise be just vague and lifeless mandate: the Right to Participation.

**YUVA** is a voluntary development organisation working to create a humane society, which sustains all human beings, as well as nature, where women, men and children enjoy universal human rights.



**YUVA BOOKS**